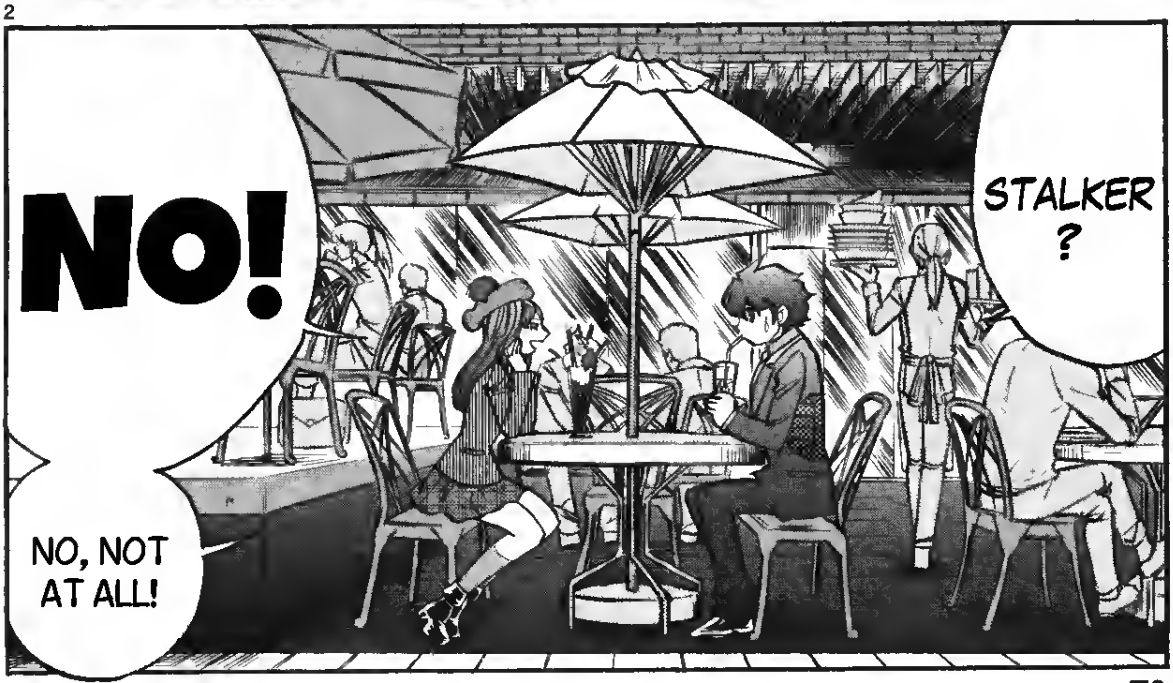
OBJECTIVE 9: PROTECT THE RULES OF BATTLE!!

2



I'M YOUR SUPPORTER!!
STALKING'S A CRIME, YOU KNOW!?
THAT'S JUST RUDE!
I'M NOT A STALKER!!

IT'S TOTALLY ALRIGHT!
DON'T WORRY!

SORRY ABOUT THAT!
SO STALKING'S A CRIME!!
OH, I SEE!

SO YOU DON'T KNOW YET...
I SEE...
WHAT, YOU DON'T KNOW YET?

ズリズリズ
ゴクッ
……

3

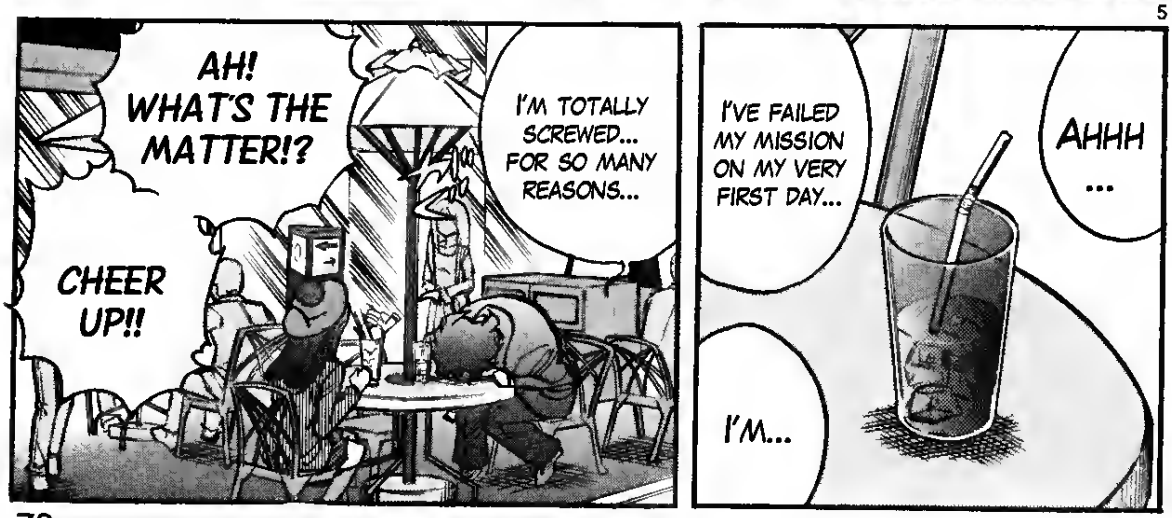
WITHOUT PEOPLE LIKE ME, OKAY?
YOU KNOW,
HONESTLY, YOU'LL NEVER MAKE IT AS A HERO...

REALLY!
YEAH!
REALLY?
HUH?
YOU GOTTA DO YOUR RESEARCH, OKAY!?
IT'S MORE SURPRISING THAT YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT THIS SYSTEM!
EVERY-BODY KNOWS ABOUT THAT!
IN THAT CASE,
OH!
I'LL GIVE IT MY BEST SHOT!
SEE?
TO BECOME A FULL-FLEDGED HERO!
I CAN TEACH YOU EVERY-THING YOU NEED...

4

BUT I'VE ALREADY GOT SUCH A CUTE FAN...
THIS IS JUST TOO SOON...
THAT MAKES ME KINDA UN-COMFORTABLE
I HAVEN'T EVEN DONE ANYTHING YET...
BUT ACTUALLY A BIT HAPPY INSIDE...
AH...
NO, I REALLY DON'T NEED...
UHHHH...
GO HOME WITHOUT BEING FOLLOWED !!
DON'T GET FOLLOWED!
BUT IS THIS RIGHT...?
NO, IN ALL HONESTY, I AM HAPPY ABOUT THIS...
I'VE GOT A FEELING THAT IT'S ACTUALLY NOT SUCH A GOOD THING.
THAT'S YOUR MIS-SION FOR TODAY!!

5

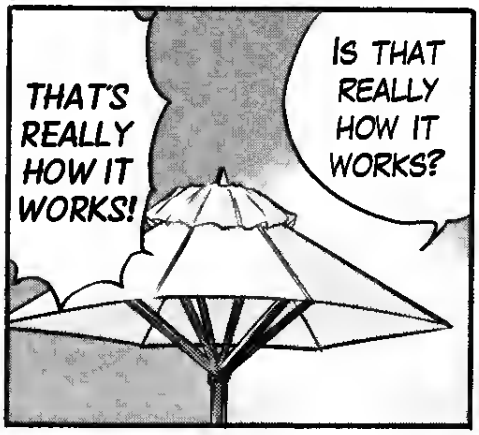

AH! WHAT'S THE MATTER!?
I'M TOTALLY SCREWED... FOR SO MANY REASONS...
CHEER UP!!
I'VE FAILED MY MISSION ON MY VERY FIRST DAY...
AHHH ...
I'M...

I'M HERE FOR YOU!
AH! MY HANDS!!

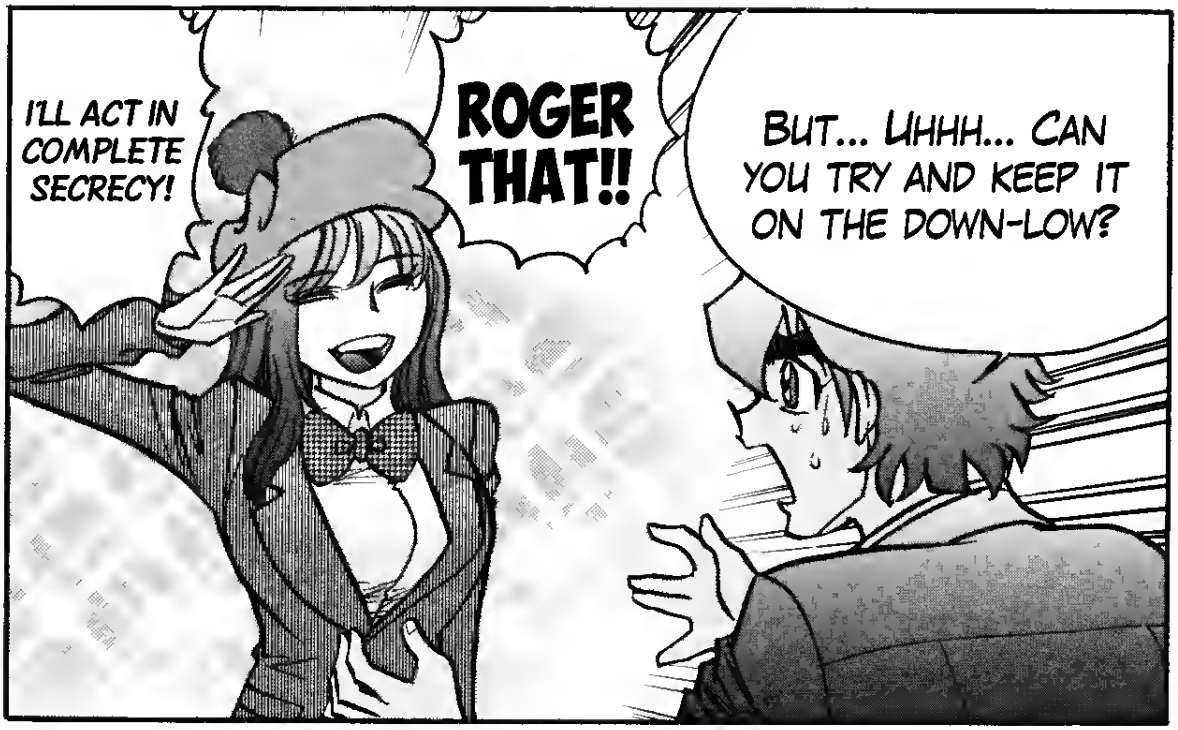
BECAUSE YOU'RE A HERO!
IT'LL BE OKAY!

THIS IS REAL BAD!
AH... WAWAH!
THIS IS BAD!

6


THAT'S REALLY HOW IT WORKS!
IS THAT REALLY HOW IT WORKS?

YOU... THINK SO?
Y...


I'LL ACT IN COMPLETE SECRECY!
ROGER THAT!!
BUT... UHHH... CAN YOU TRY AND KEEP IT ON THE DOWN-LOW?

UH...
SURE.
ONE LAST THING, CAN I TAKE A SELFIE?
JUST ONE!
THANKS FOR THE CHOCOLATE PARFAIT!

7

PLEASE, ANYTHING BUT THAT...!!
I'LL WALK TO WORK WITH YOU SOMETIME!
AT LEAST NOT TODAY ...!!

I EVEN LET HER... TAKE MY PICTURE ...
AHH HH...
GOOD-BYE!
THANK YOU SO MUCH!

GOOD MORN-ING!
GOOD MORN-ING!
8
BEST OF LUCK THERE, ROOKIE!
OH, GOOD MORNING, ROOKIE!!
HEY!
GOOD MORNING!

I WAS WORRIED ABOUT WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF SHE FOLLOWED ME HERE.
THANK GOODNESS...
DESSERT V
5
HUH?
MORN-ING...

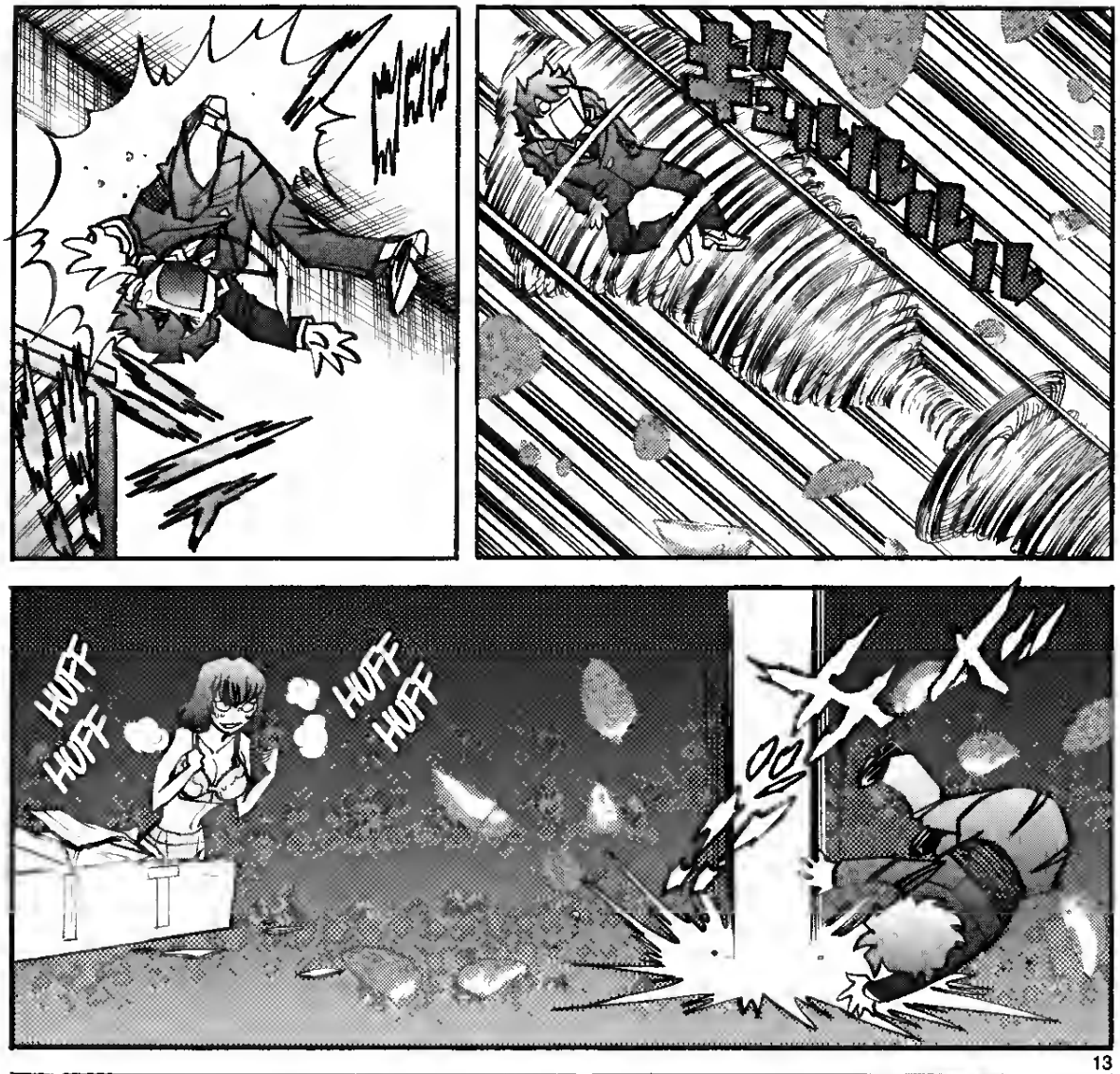
OHH...
WHAT'RE YOU DOING UNDER THERE?
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?
WAAAUGH... B-BUT I... BUT I... URK...
HEY!
HADO?
YES, SIR!! RIGHT AWAY, SIR!!
AH!
10
AHHH!!
AH!
WAAAAAUGH!
I CAN'T COMB!-

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
WHAT'S THE MATTER, HADO...?
YOU'RE COVERED IN SWEAT!
AHHH HHHH HHH!
OH, SORRY!
I SHOULDN'T HAVE WOKEN YOU SO SUD-DENLY...
A... AHH HHH!
NO... NO...
ENOUGH! STOP! ENOUGH!
STAY BACK !!
THERE'S A HEARTRENDING VOICE COMING FROM THAT CUTE LITTLE CARDBOARD HOUSE!!
AND IT'S A REALLY HEARTRENDING VOICE!
IT'S ALL MY FAULT!
I'M SORRY!
AHHHHH! GYAAA AAAH!
PLEASE, STOP...

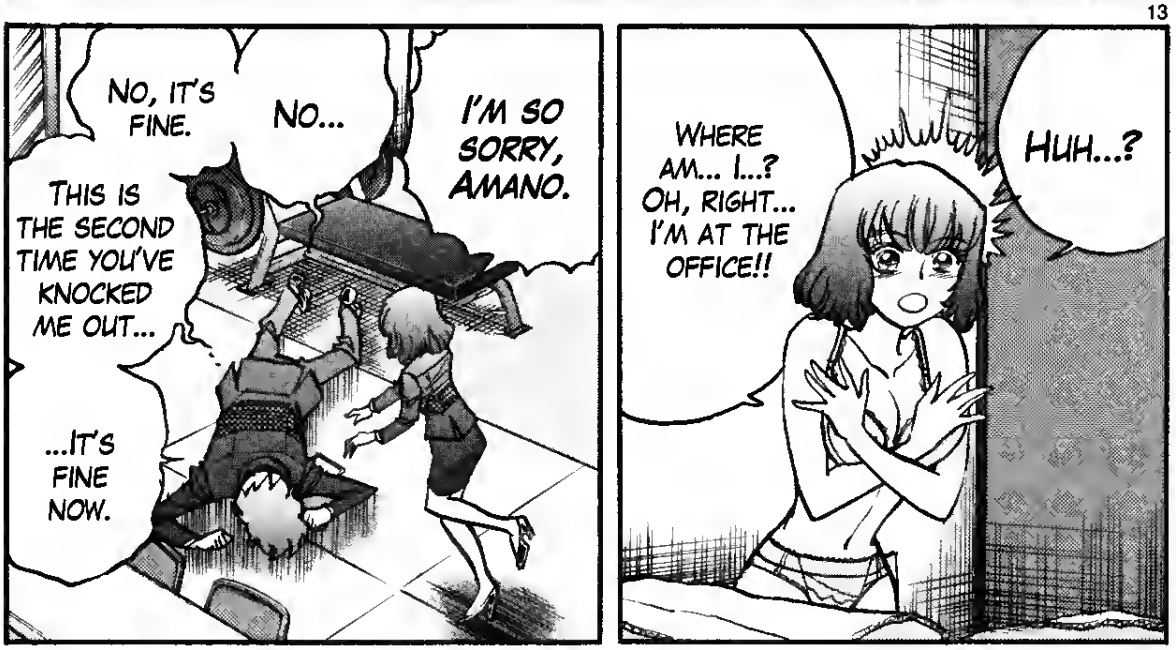
AIIIIEEEEEEEEEEEEEE!
WAA
UGH!

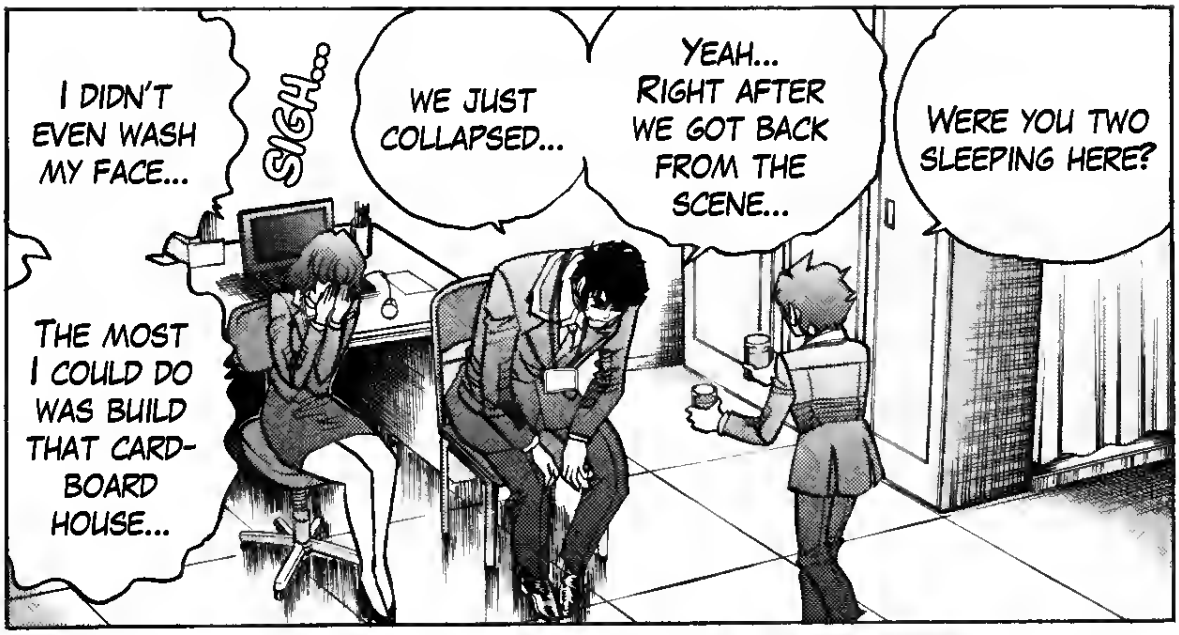
SORRY, I DIDN'T MEAN TO...
AH...
NOO OOO OOO OOO!

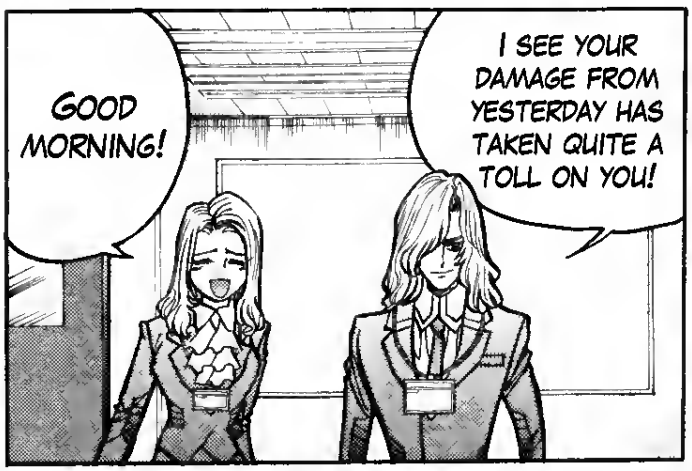
TORNADO PARFAIT SLAP!
GYUUUN


HUFF HUFF
HUFF HUFF

13

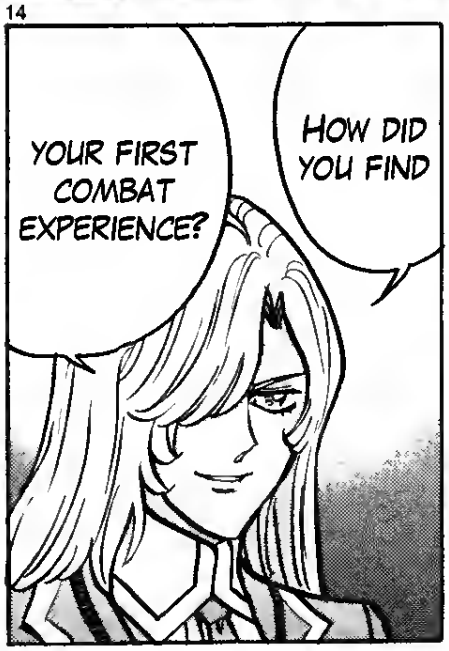

NO, IT'S FINE.
NO...
I'M SO SORRY, AMANO.
THIS IS THE SECOND TIME YOU'VE KNOCKED ME OUT...
...IT'S FINE NOW.
WHERE AM... I...? OH, RIGHT... I'M AT THE OFFICE!!
HUH...?

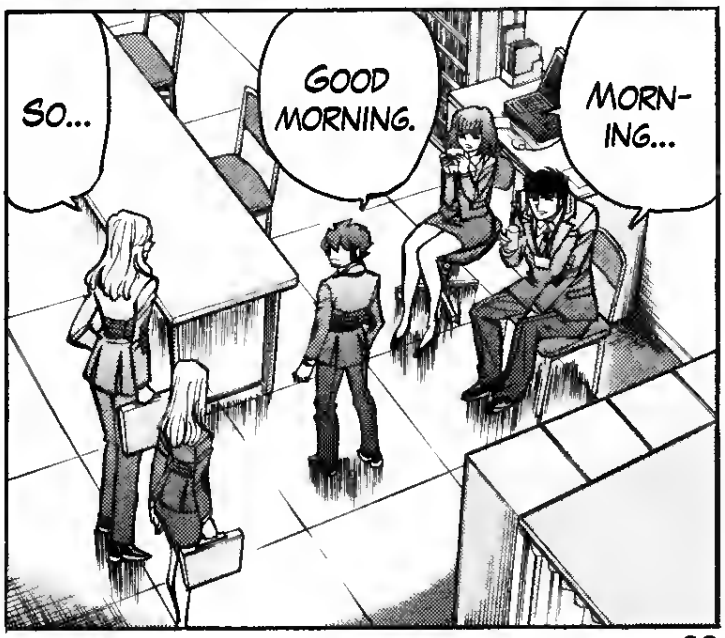

WERE YOU TWO SLEEPING HERE?
YEAH... RIGHT AFTER WE GOT BACK FROM THE SCENE...
WE JUST COLLAPSED...
SIGH...
I DIDN'T EVEN WASH MY FACE...
THE MOST I COULD DO WAS BUILD THAT CARD-BOARD HOUSE...

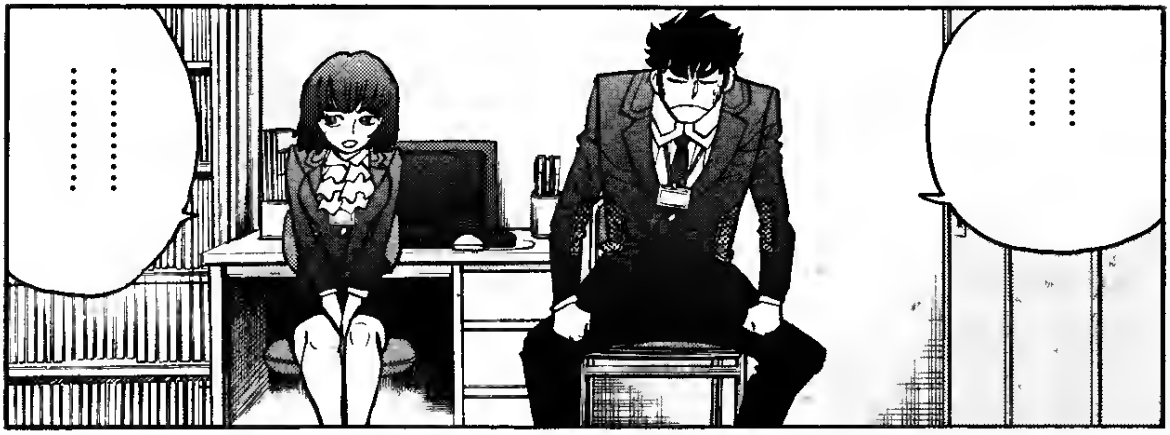

GOOD MORNING!
I SEE YOUR DAMAGE FROM YESTERDAY HAS TAKEN QUITE A TOLL ON YOU!

HMPF.

14


HOW DID YOU FIND
YOUR FIRST COMBAT EXPERIENCE?


SO...
GOOD MORNING.
MORN-ING...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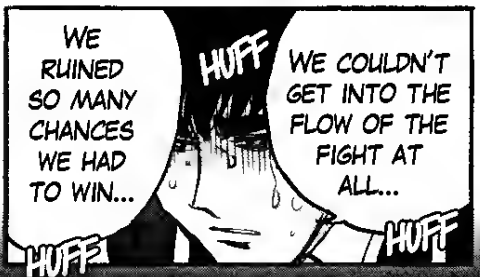
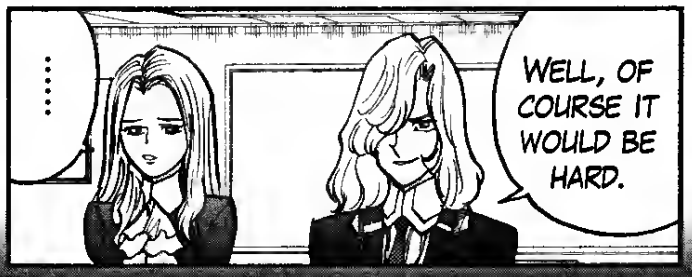
IT'S NOTHING LIKE I'D IMAGINED ...
HUFF
SORRY. IT'S A LITTLE HARD REMEMBERING IT...
HUFF
'SCUSE ME... HANG ON.
HUFF
URK
HUFF
ULLP...!
HUFF
HUFF

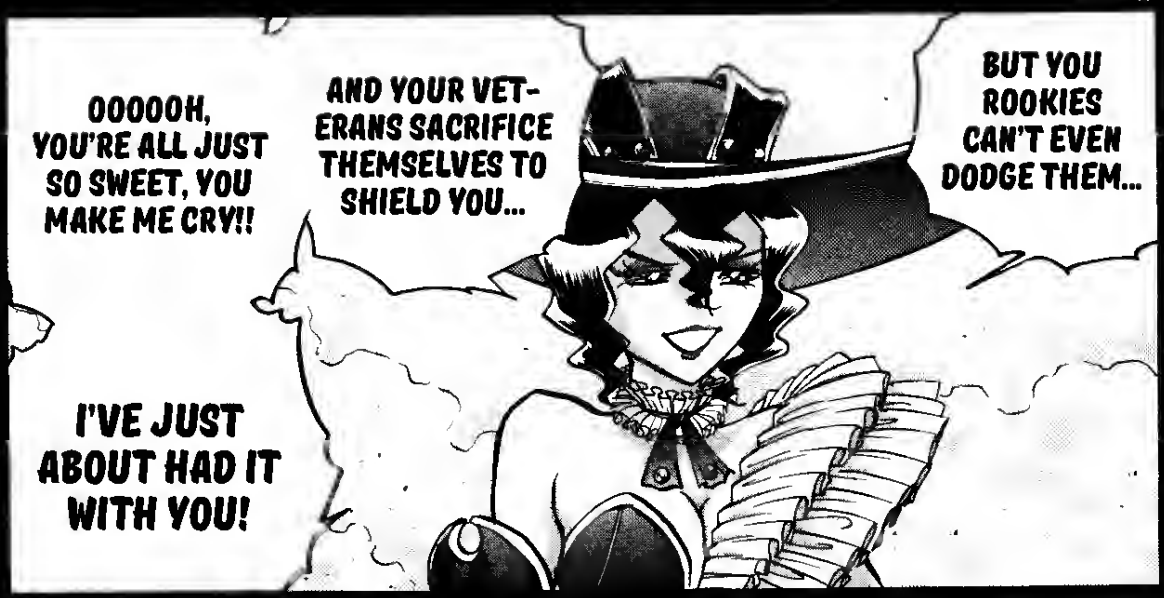

WE RUINED SO MANY CHANCES WE HAD TO WIN...
HUFF
WE COULDN'T GET INTO THE FLOW OF THE FIGHT AT ALL...
HUFF
HUFF


……
WELL, OF COURSE IT WOULD BE HARD.

AND AT THE END OF IT ALL...

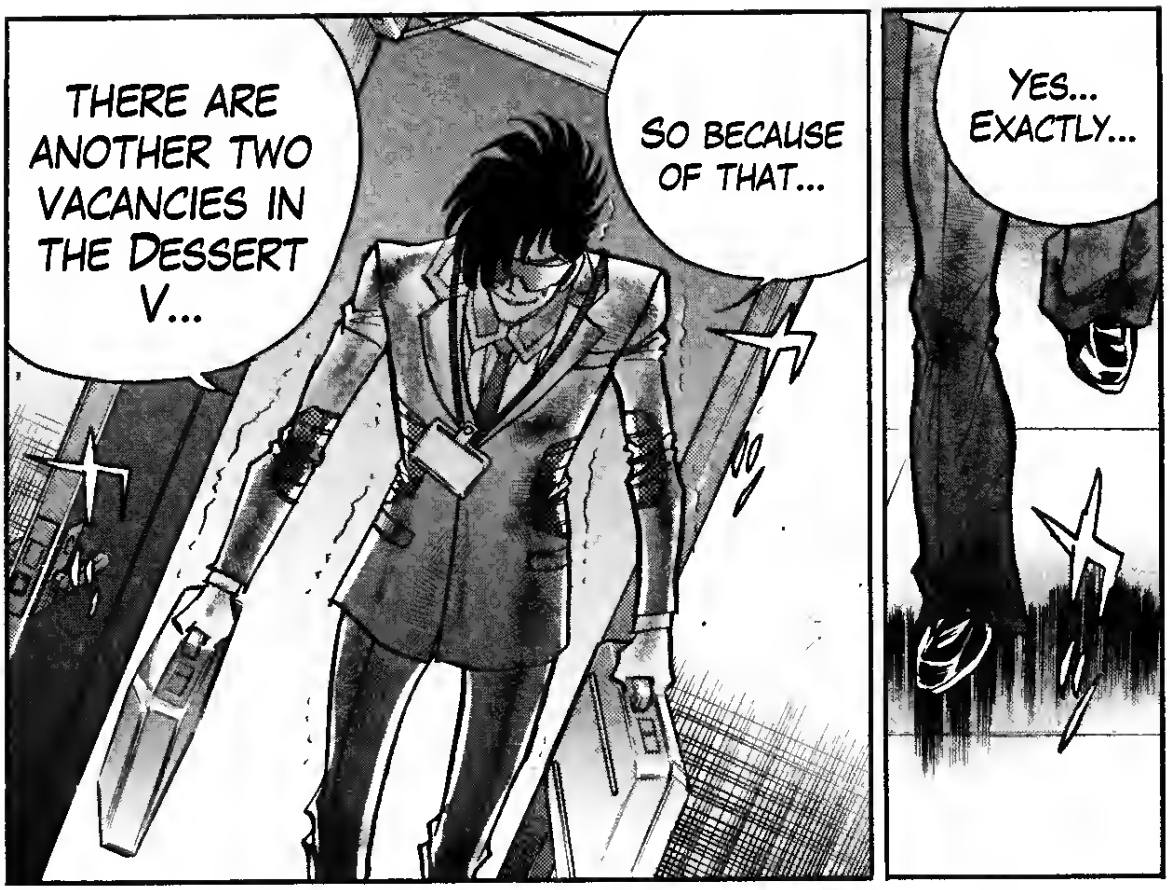
HONESTLY... YOU'RE SO HELPLESS!!
DODGE, YOU TWO!!!

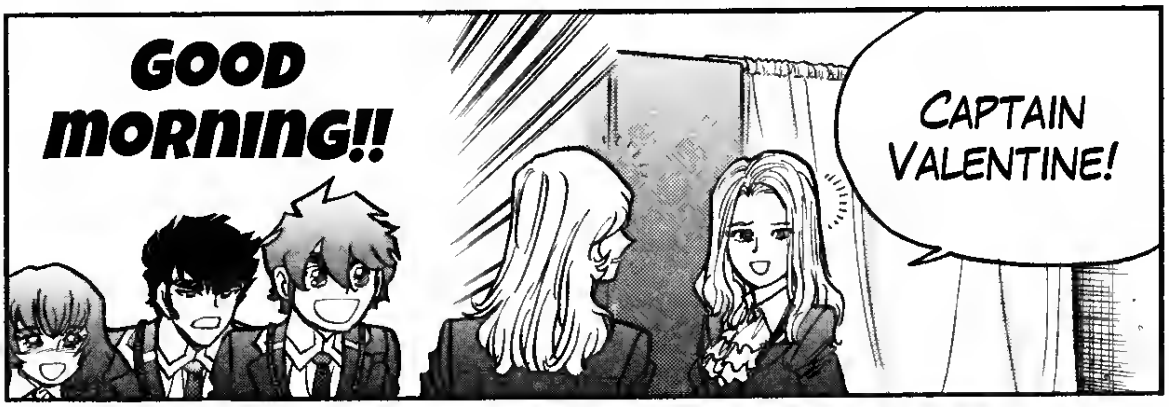
YELLOW!
WHITE!!
I ONLY SHOT THOSE BAZOOKAS TO LIVEN UP THE PERFOR-MANCE!!
COULD THIS BE?
OH, DEAR!


OOOOOH, YOU'RE ALL JUST SO SWEET, YOU MAKE ME CRY!!
AND YOUR VET-ERANS SACRIFICE THEMSELVES TO SHIELD YOU...
BUT YOU ROOKIES CAN'T EVEN DODGE THEM...
I'VE JUST ABOUT HAD IT WITH YOU!

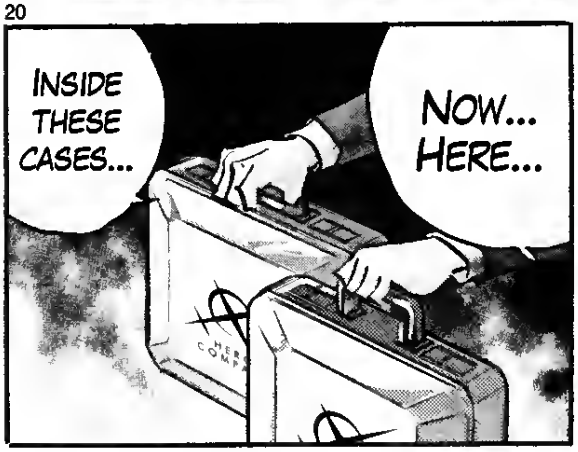
GYA RAH!
YOU SHOULD PROBABLY GET THEM TO THE HOSPITAL SOON ♡
GOODBYE, THEN! LA-LA-LAAAAA ♡
NOW, LET'S DITCH THESE MORONS AND GET GOING!!
GYA RAH!
GYA RAH!
GYA RAH!
I'M GONNA TRACK DOWN YOUR HIDE-OUT AND...
DAMMIT! YOU'RE NOT GETTING AWAY FROM US!!
WHY ARE YOU STOPPING ME, YELLOW!?
WHY!?
WAIT... NAVY...
18
THE RULE ...!?
NEVER PURSUE... THAT'S THE RULE...
YOU CAN'T PURSUE THEM...

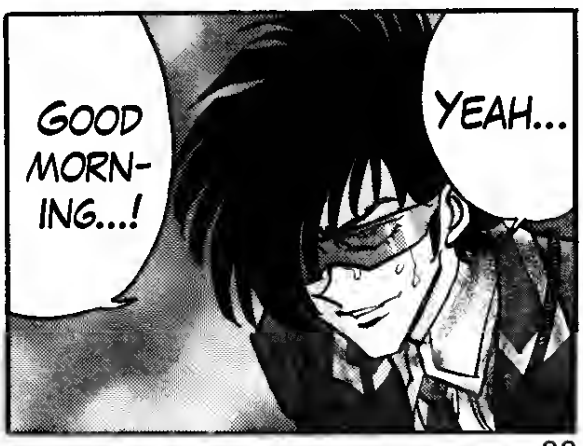
THIS... IS NOT A WAR...!!
IT'S A SALES COMPETITION BETWEEN THE COMPANY OF JUSTICE AND THE EVIL SYNDICATES...
IF YOU BREAK THE RULES... IT'LL NEVER END...
HUH ...?
R-
REALLY ...!?
19
FOR NOW... HURRY...
AS QUICK AS YOU CAN...
TAKE US TO THE HOSPITAL ...
YELLOW!!

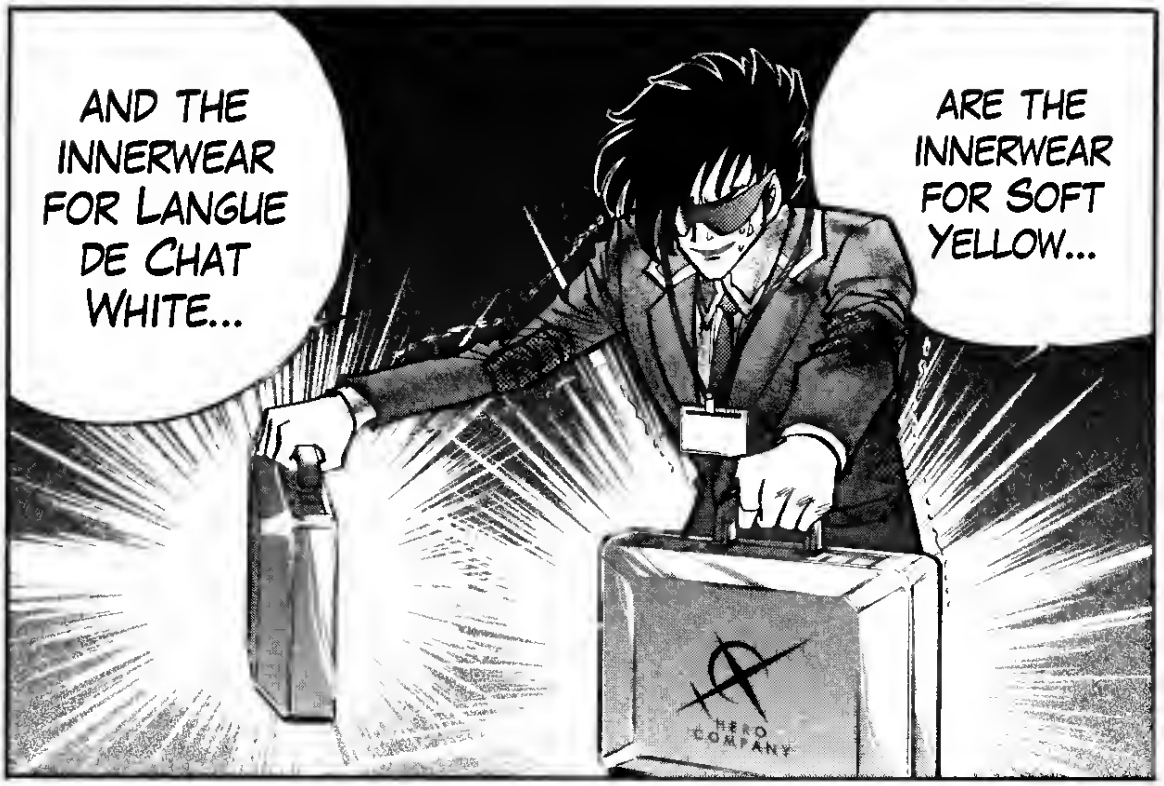

THERE ARE ANOTHER TWO VACANCIES IN THE DESSERT V...
SO BECAUSE OF THAT...
YES... EXACTLY...

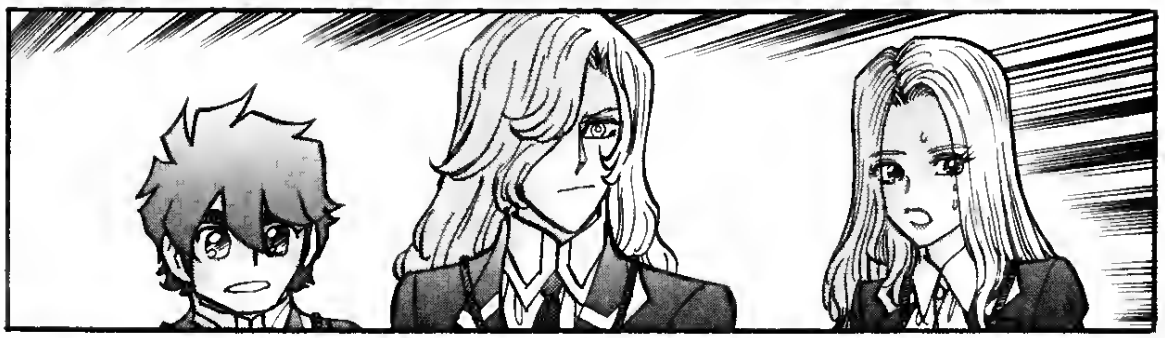

GOOD MORNING!!
CAPTAIN VALENTINE!

20


INSIDE THESE CASES...
NOW... HERE...


GOOD MORN-ING...!
YEAH...

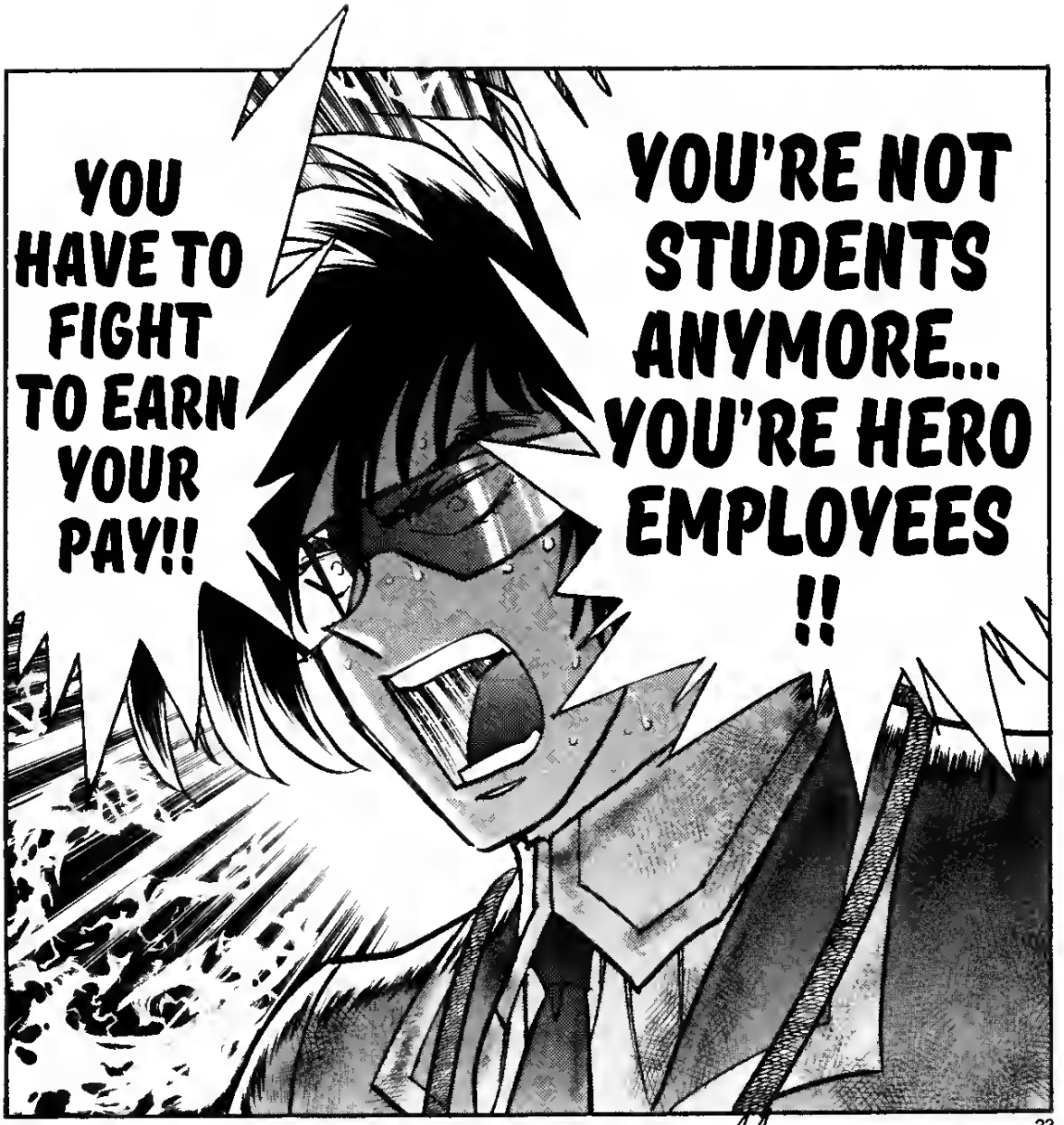

AND THE INNERWEAR FOR LANGUE DE CHAT WHITE...
ARE THE INNERWEAR FOR SOFT YELLOW...
HERO COMPANY



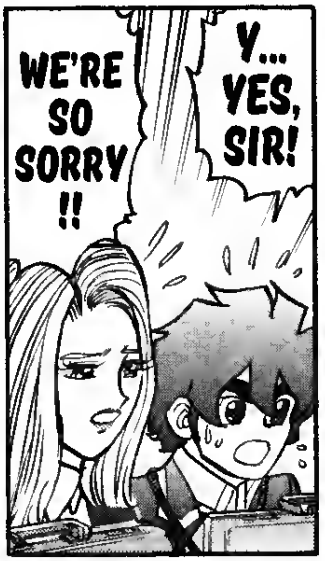
21

SO I FITTED THEM TO AMANO AND TSURUGI'S SIZE...
I FIGURED YOU'D SAY THAT...
GIVE THEM TO THE OTHER TWO.
OH, I'LL PASS ON THEM...

I WANTED TO WEAR THIS SUIT SO MUCH YESTERDAY,
BUT TODAY... IT FEELS REALLY HEAVY...
B-BUT...
THAT MEANS THAT FOUR OUT OF THE FIVE TEAM MEMBERS ARE ROOKIES...
22
STOP WHIN-ING!!
QUIT ACTING LIKE SPOILED BRATS!!
HOW COULD YOU...
SAY SOME-THING SO PA-THETIC !?

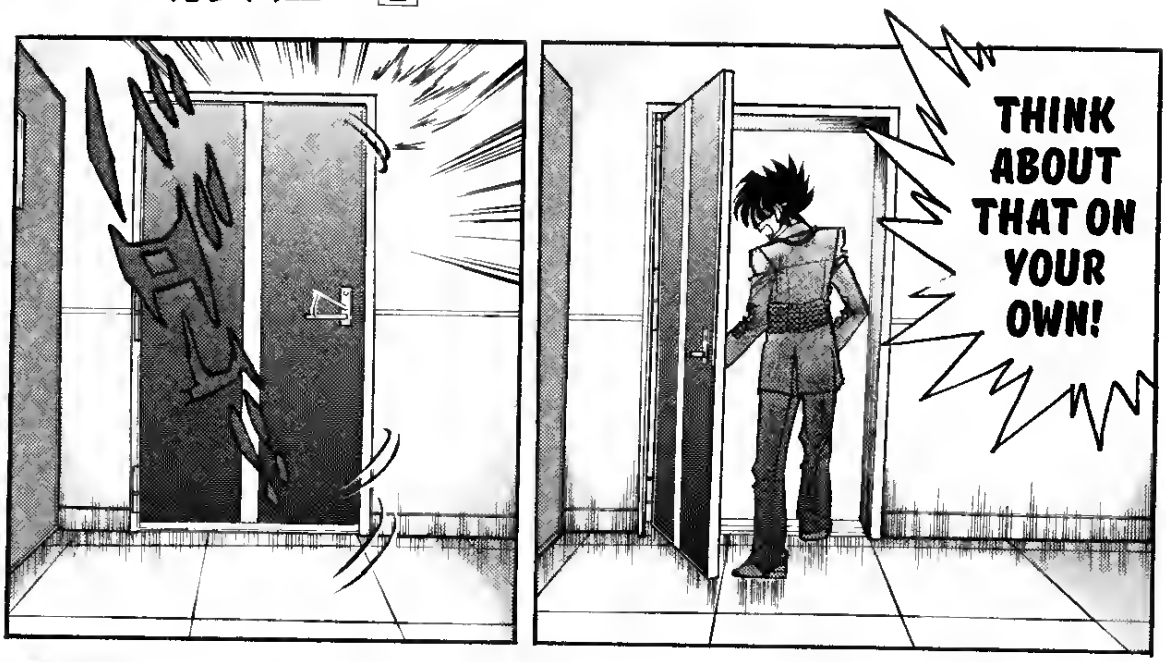

YOU HAVE TO FIGHT TO EARN YOUR PAY!!
YOU'RE NOT STUDENTS ANYMORE... YOU'RE HERO EMPLOYEES !!
23

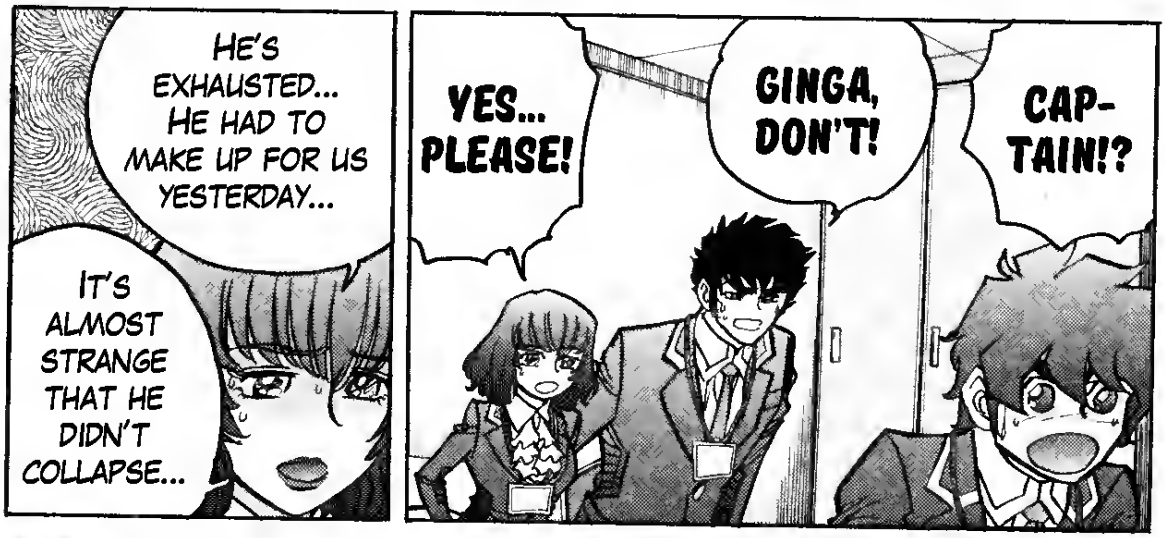
HUFF HUFF
HUFF


WE'RE SO SORRY !!
Y... YES, SIR!

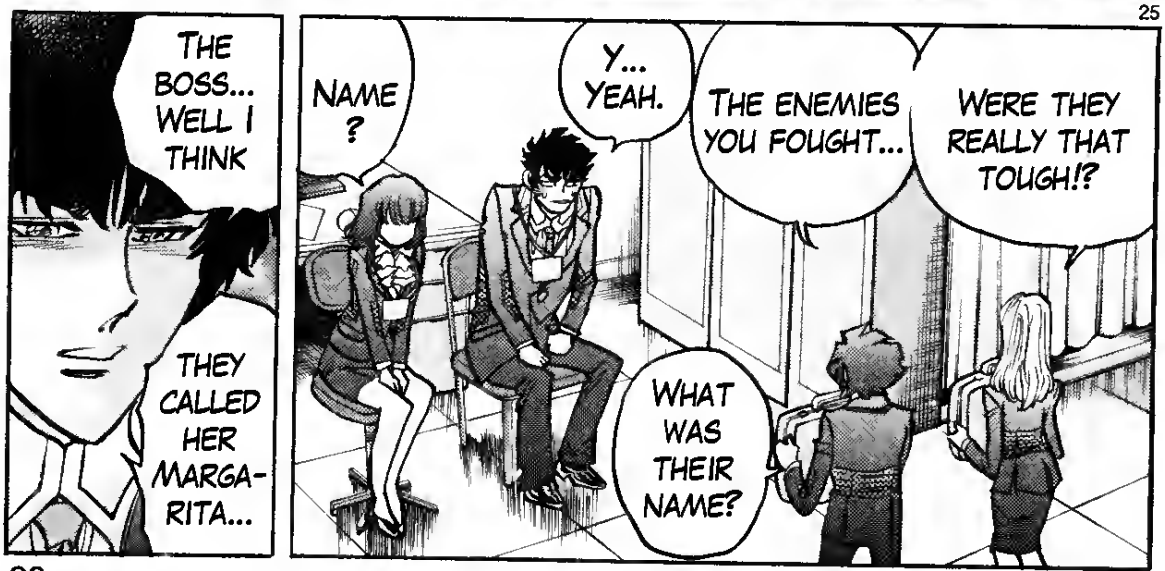
SHOULD BE OUR TEAM NAME !!
THE ONLY SWEET THING ABOUT US...

THEY'LL BE BACK TO ATTACK THE BANK AGAIN...
THEY MAY TAKE THAT CHANCE...
I'M GONNA NEED A BIT OF A REST NOW...
BUT REMEMBER...
TOMORROW AT 8...
FINAL BATTLE !?
TO INITIATE THE FINAL BATTLE...
WHOSE FINAL BATTLE !?
OURS!?
24
I WANT YOU TO PREPARE FOR IT WITH ALL YOU HAVE...
HUH...?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, PREPARE...?


THINK ABOUT THAT ON YOUR OWN!

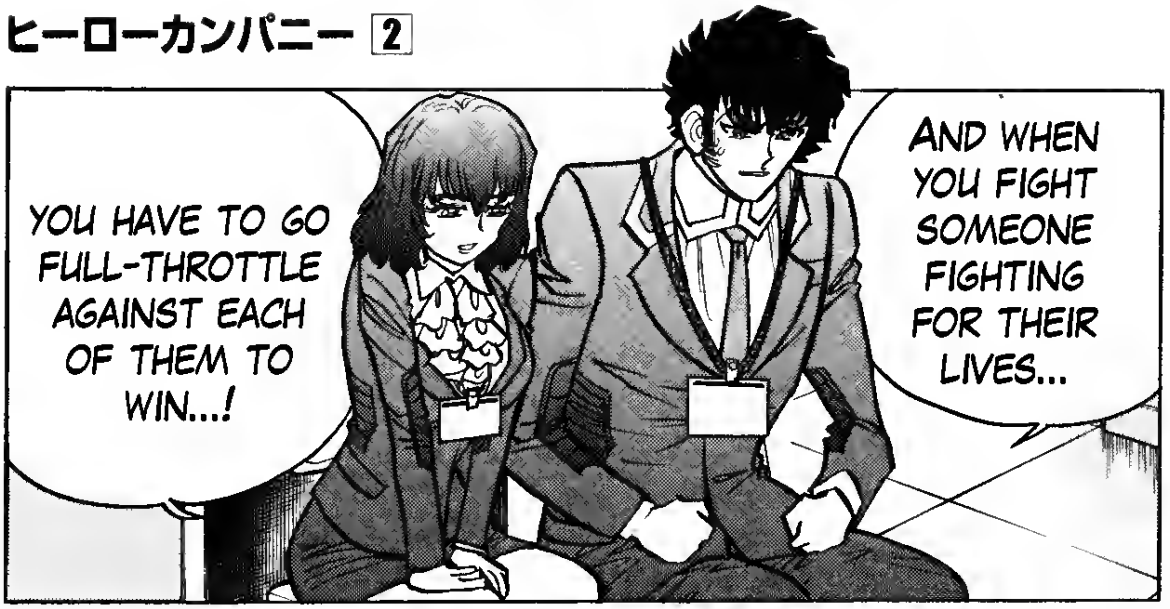

HE'S EXHAUSTED... HE HAD TO MAKE UP FOR US YESTERDAY...
IT'S ALMOST STRANGE THAT HE DIDN'T COLLAPSE...
YES... PLEASE!
GINGA, DON'T!
CAP-TAIN!?

25


THE BOSS... WELL I THINK
THEY CALLED HER MARGA-RITA...
NAME?
Y... YEAH.
THE ENEMIES YOU FOUGHT...
WERE THEY REALLY THAT TOUGH!?
WHAT WAS THEIR NAME?

TAKE THE HENCH-MEN.
FOR IN-STANCE ...
YOU ALMOST FEEL FAINT FIGHTING THEM...
THEY HAD A WOMAN FOR A BOSS... AND THEY WERE A PRETTY STRONG UNIT.
AND YOU MIGHT THINK OF THEM AS JUST A WARM-UP...
THAT THEY'D PROBABLY BE SMALL-FRY...
AND YOU'D THINK THAT SINCE THEY'RE HENCHMEN...
THERE WERE SO MANY OF THEM...
GYA RAH!
GYA RAH!
GYA RAH!

THEY WERE ALL PEOPLE FIGHTING FOR THEIR LIVES, JUST LIKE US!!
BUT THAT COULDN'T BE FURTHER FROM THE TRUTH!


YOU HAVE TO GO FULL-THROTTLE AGAINST EACH OF THEM TO WIN...!
AND WHEN YOU FIGHT SOMEONE FIGHTING FOR THEIR LIVES...

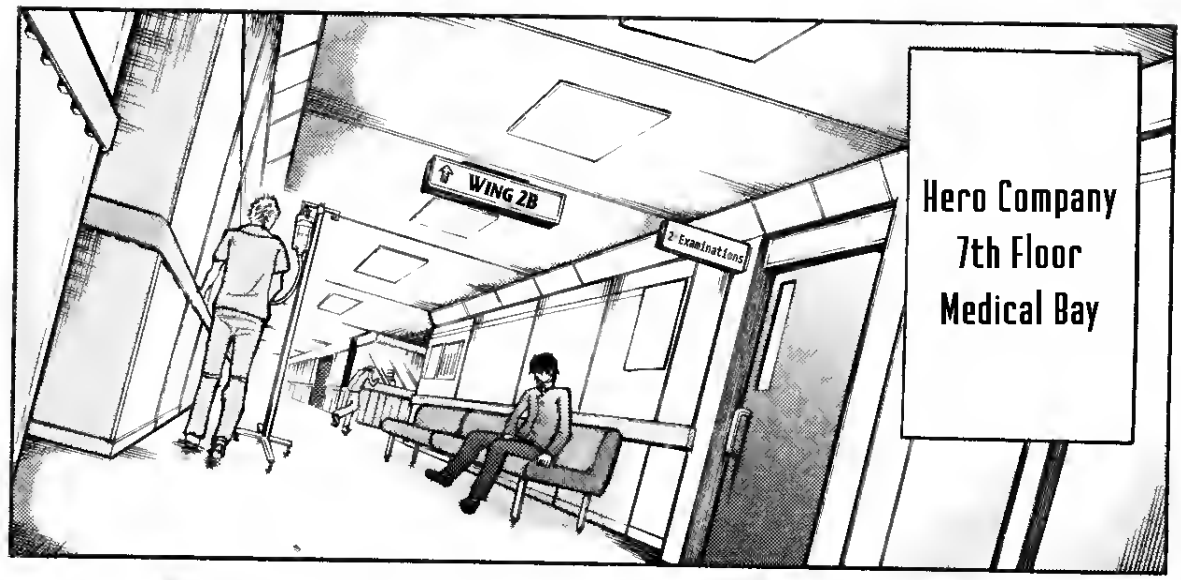
SO IT WAS LIKE THAT EVEN FOR A MAN LIKE YOU!
I SEE.
I WAS WRONG...
THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME...
FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME...!

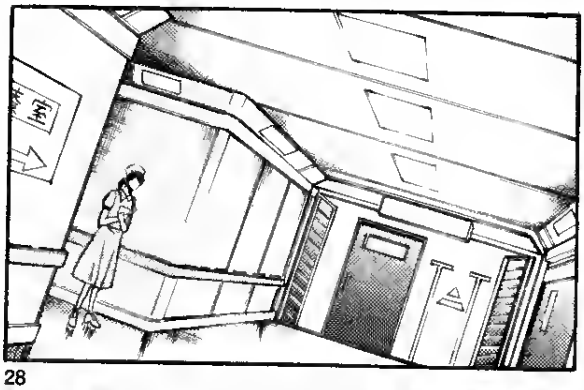
SOME-THING SO OBVI-OUS...
I REAL-IZED

27

SO,
WHAT DO WE DO NOW?
THE SHOWDOWN'S TOMORROW MORNING... WHEN THE BANKS OPEN.
THAT GIVES US FIFTEEN HOURS...!

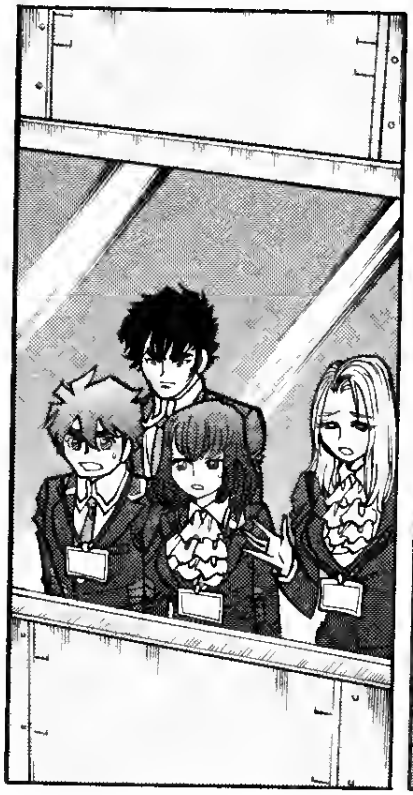
THIS JUST SUDDENLY GOT HEAVY...
THIS SUIT FEELS LIKE IT BECAME EVEN HEAVIER...

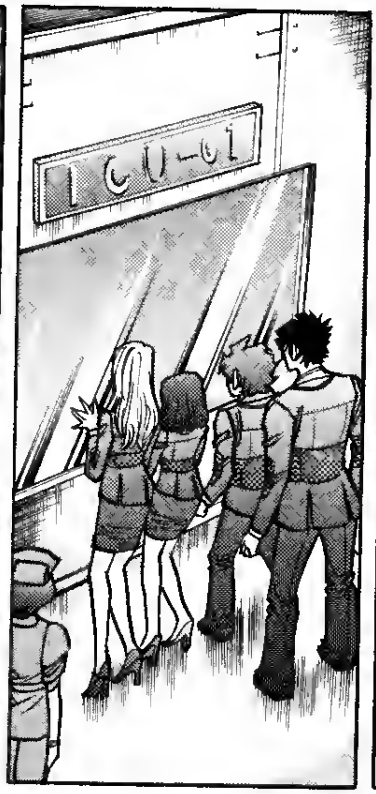

WING 2B
2: Examinations
Hero Company
7th Floor
Medical Bay

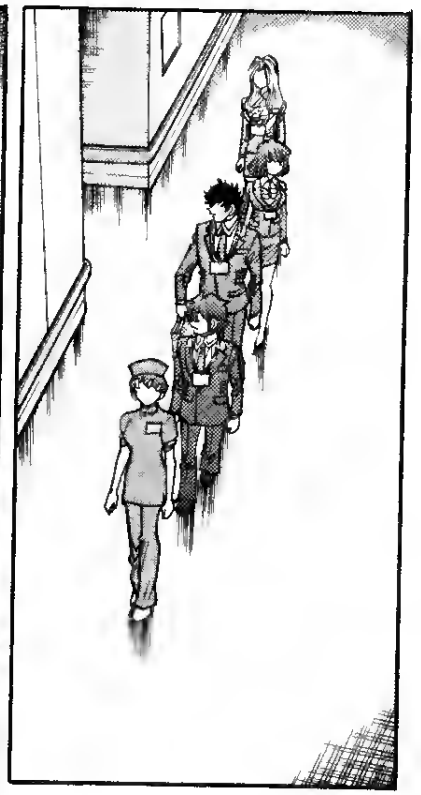


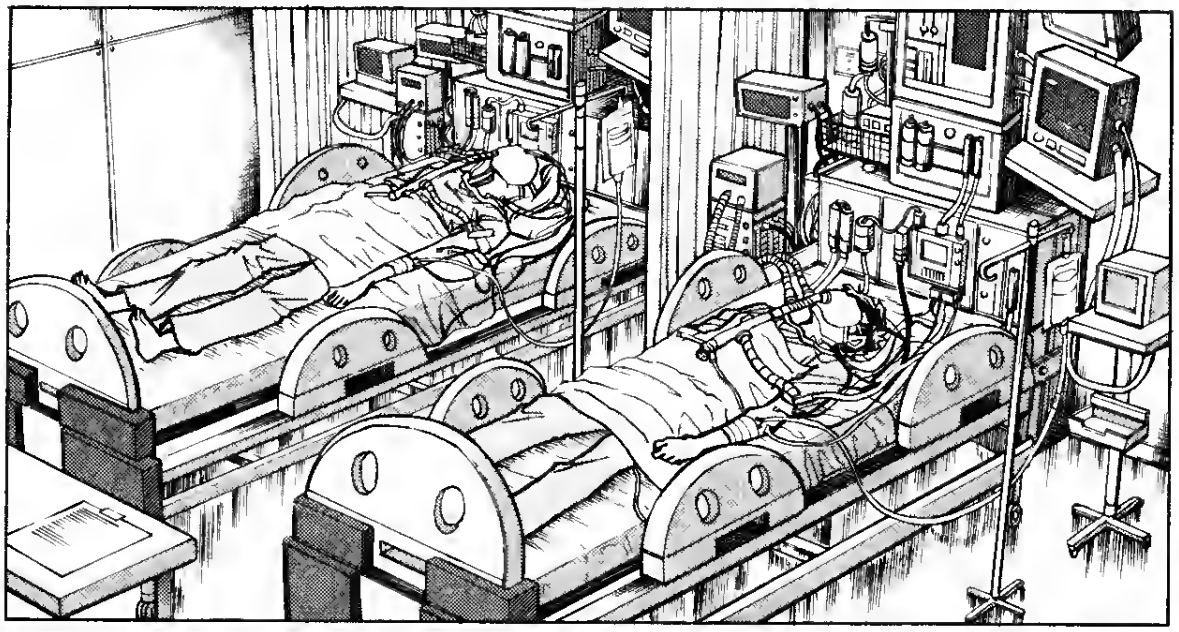
INTENSIVE CARE UNIT
SCT ROOM

28









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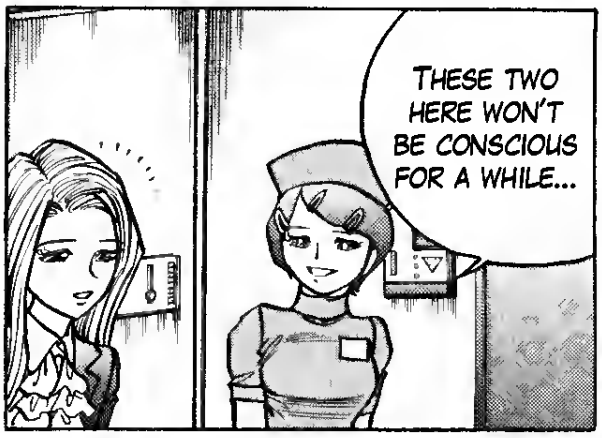
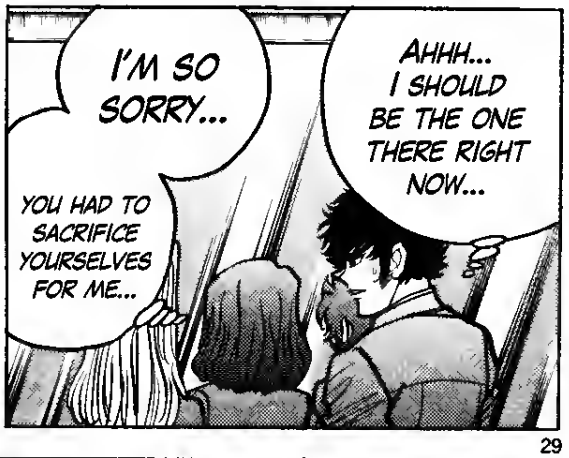
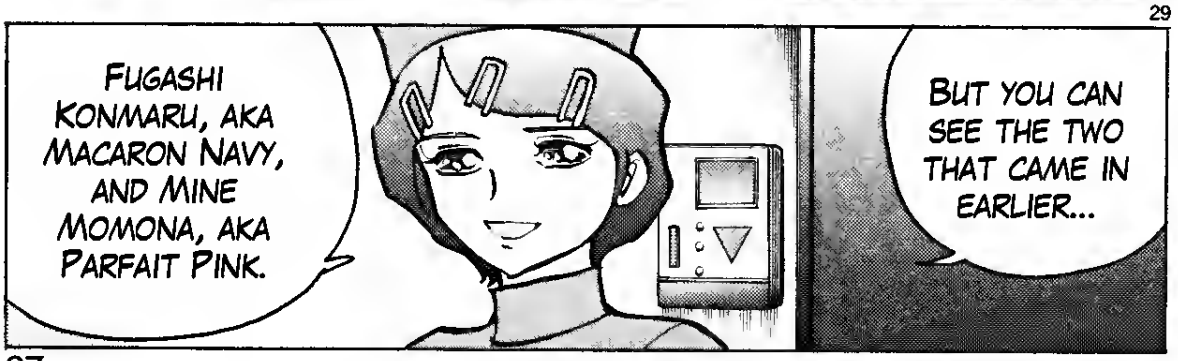

THESE TWO HERE WON'T BE CONSCIOUS FOR A WHILE...

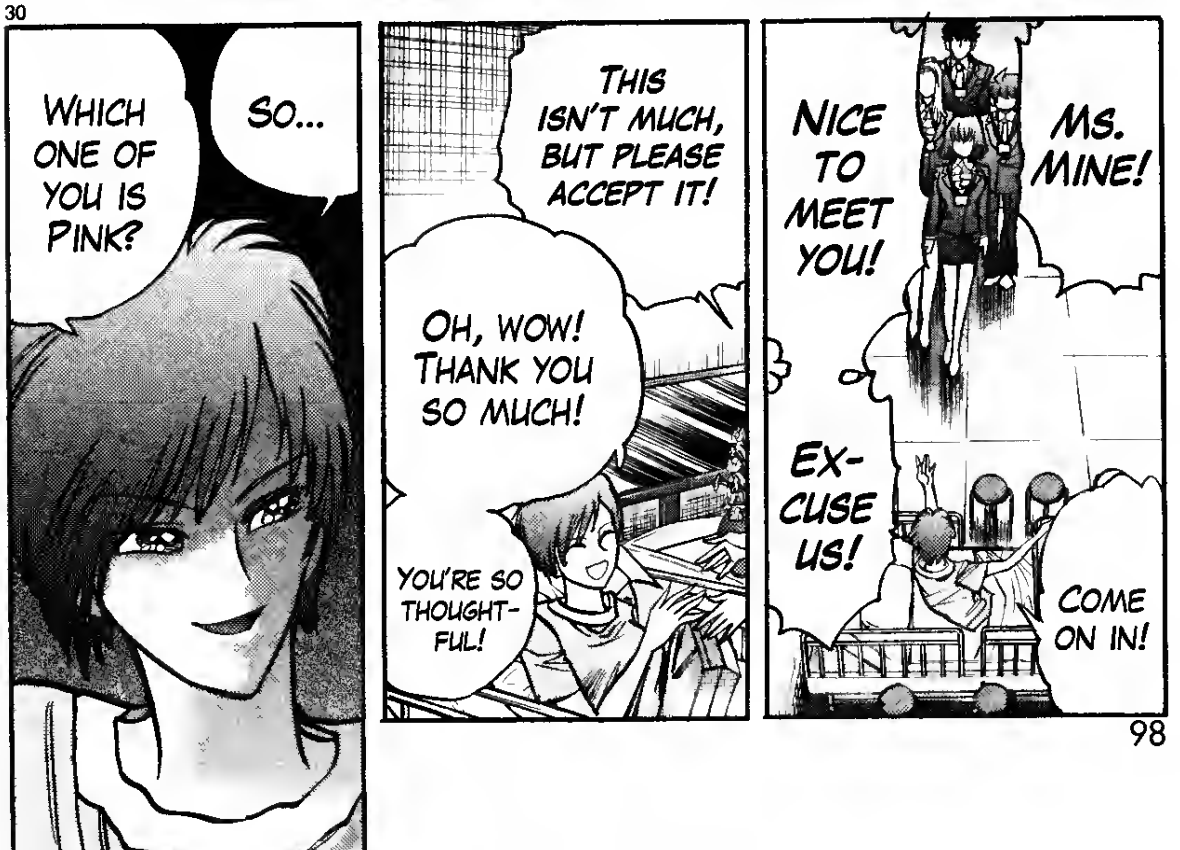

I'M SO SORRY...
YOU HAD TO SACRIFICE YOURSELVES FOR ME...
AHHH... I SHOULD BE THE ONE THERE RIGHT NOW...

29


FUGASHI KONMARU, AKA MACARON NAVY, AND MINE MOMONA, AKA PARFAIT PINK.
BUT YOU CAN SEE THE TWO THAT CAME IN EARLIER...

ゾゾゾ
WE CAN TALK TO THEM?
YES, YOU CAN MEET WITH THEM!
OH, HEY!
YOU'RE HERE!
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU!!

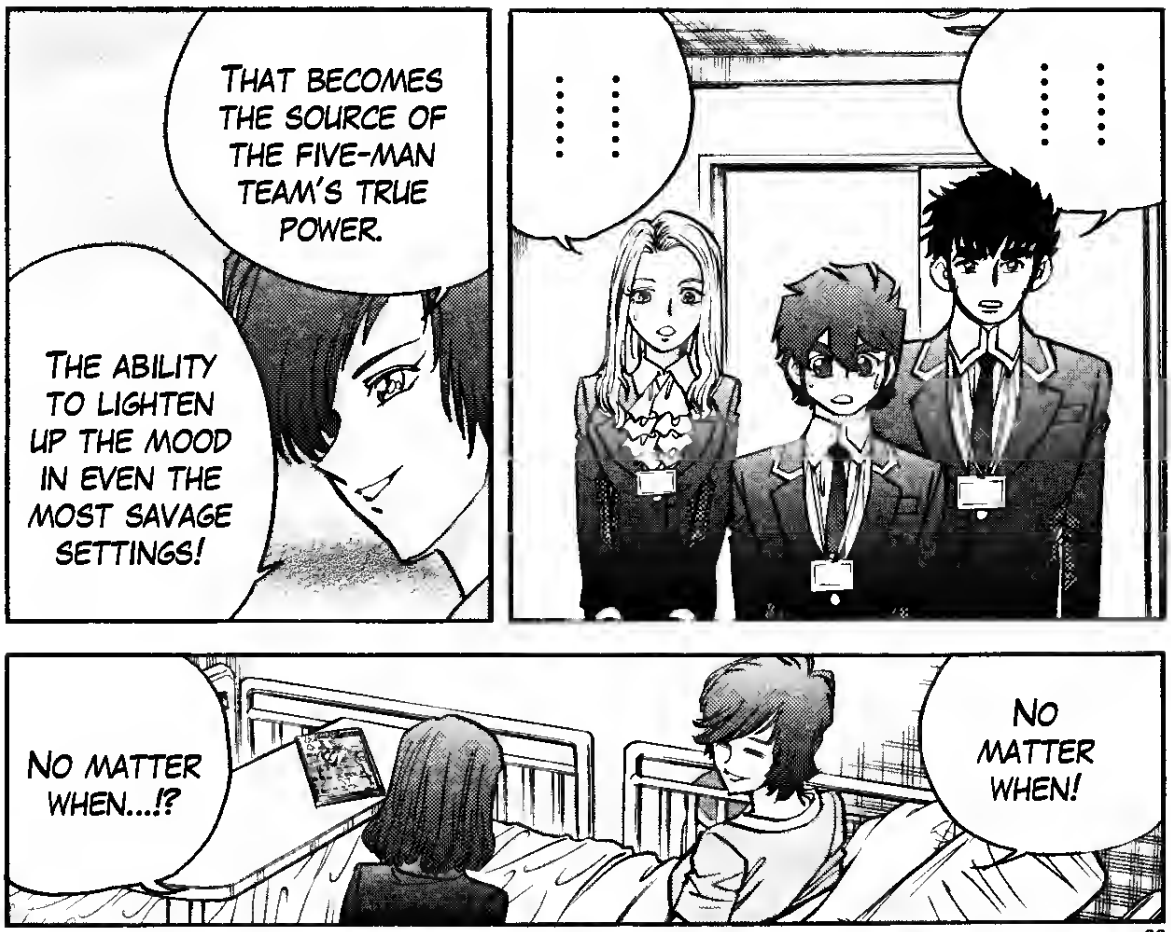
30


MS. MINE!
NICE TO MEET YOU!
EX-CUSE US!
COME ON IN!
THIS ISN'T MUCH, BUT PLEASE ACCEPT IT!
OH, WOW! THANK YOU SO MUCH!
YOU'RE SO THOUGHT-FUL!
SO...
WHICH ONE OF YOU IS PINK?

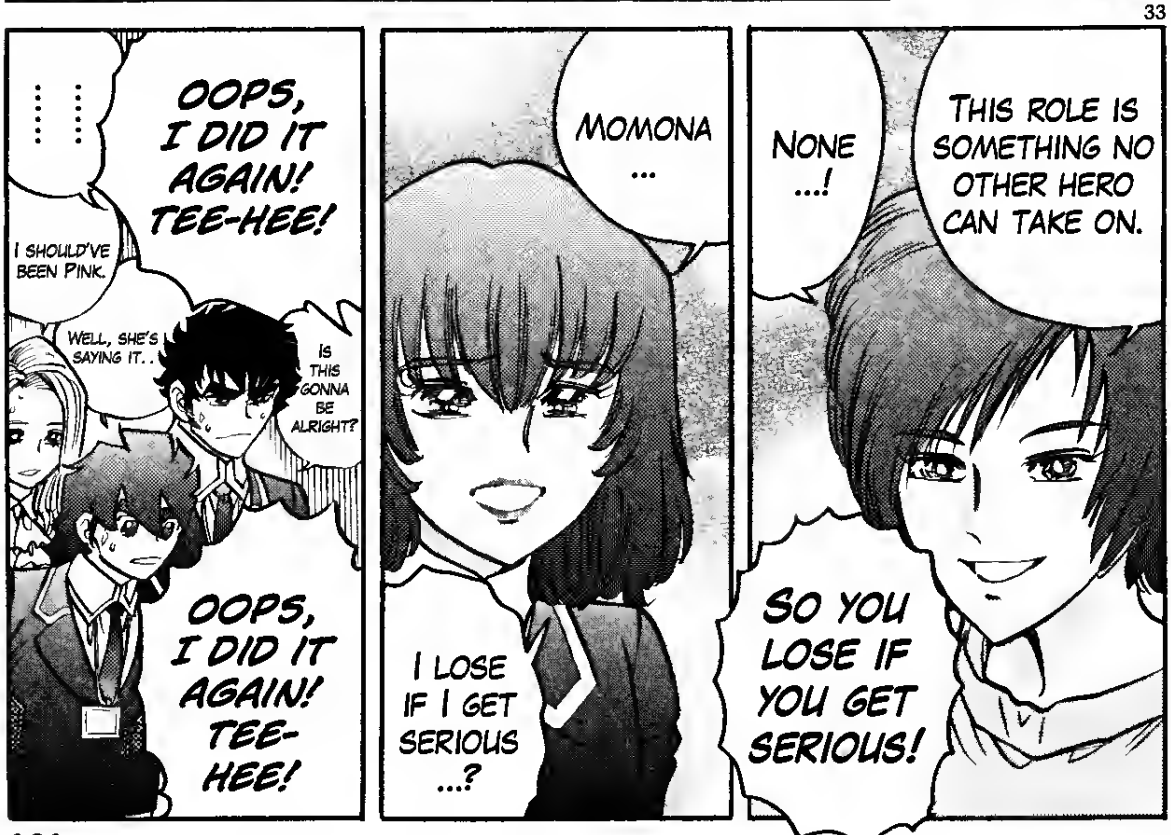
YOU'RE SO CUTE!
NICE!
MY NAME'S HYUGA HIKARU!!
UHH... THAT'D BE ME.
HUH ...?
THE PINK ONE HAS TO BE BRIGHT AND CHIPPER!
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'LL DO ALRIGHT.
I WISH YOU THE VERY BEST, HIKARU...
31
TEE-HEE!
OOPS, I DID IT AGAIN!
IT'S IMPORTANT TO KEEP DOING THAT KIND OF THING!
EXCEPT WHEN YOU'RE THE MAIN CHAR-ACTER!
YOU CAN'T GET DARK!!
NO MATTER HOW SERIOUS OF A FAILURE YOU SUFFER...
YOU PASS!
YOU'RE SO HUGGABLE!

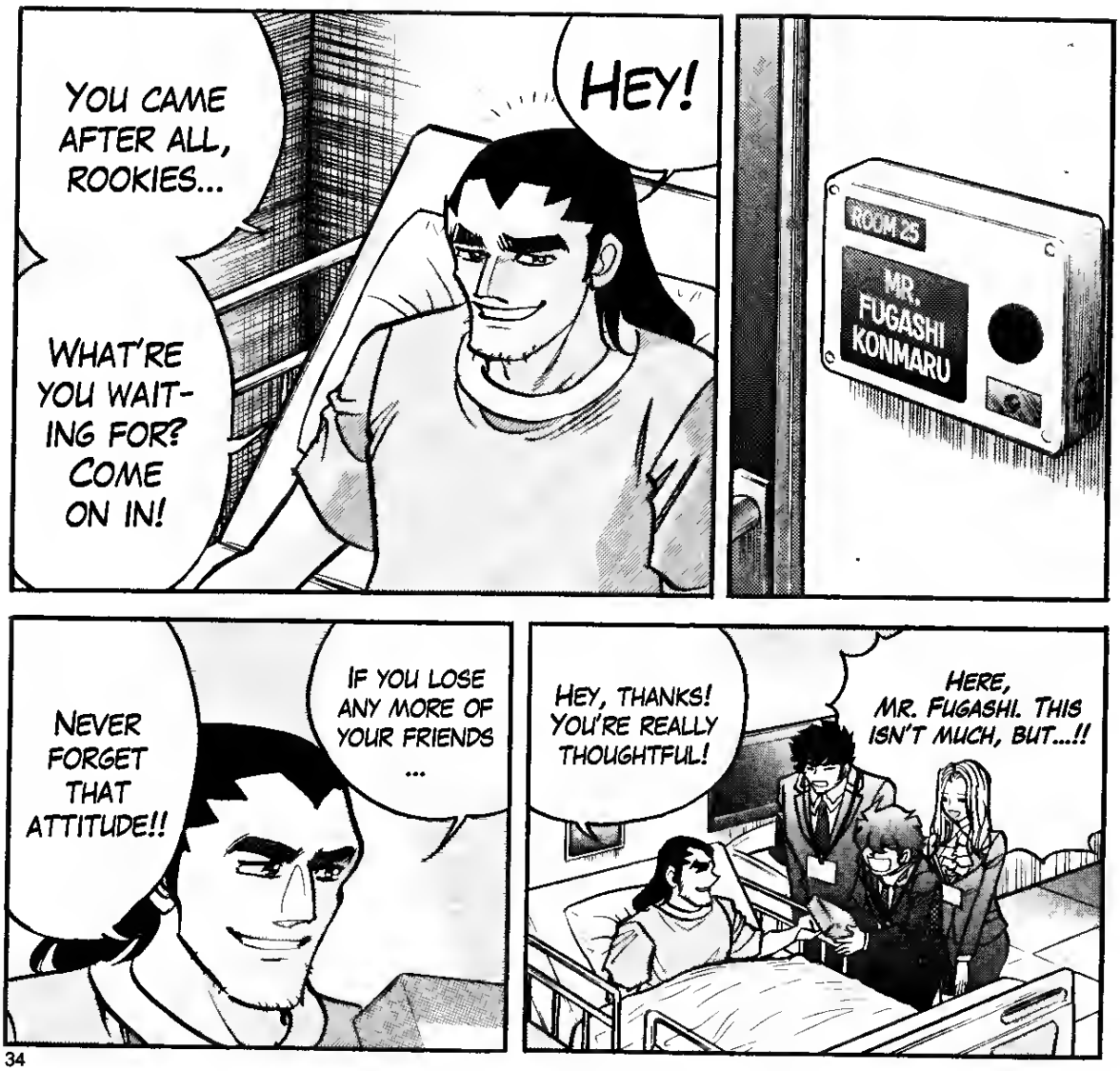
I'VE ALREADY HEARD ALL ABOUT THAT!
HEY, IT'S ALRIGHT!
IT WAS MY FAULT...!
THIS TIME,
BUT...
TEE-HEE!!
BUT EVEN THEN, YOU JUST GOTTA GO...
YEAH...
WHITE AND YELLOW GOT INJURED BECAUSE OF YOU, RIGHT?

I DID IT AGAIN!
OOPS, IT'S MY FAULT!
TEE-HEE!!


THAT BECOMES THE SOURCE OF THE FIVE-MAN TEAM'S TRUE POWER.
THE ABILITY TO LIGHTEN UP THE MOOD IN EVEN THE MOST SAVAGE SETTINGS!
NO MATTER WHEN...!?
NO MATTER WHEN!

33

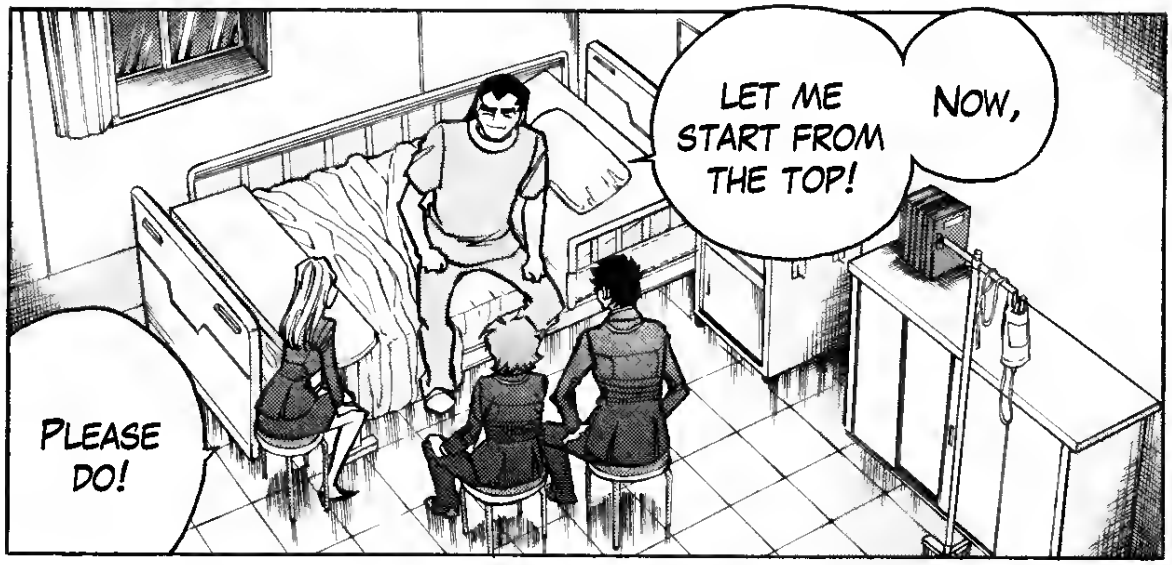

OOPS, I DID IT AGAIN! TEE-HEE!
I SHOULD'VE BEEN PINK.
WELL, SHE'S SAYING IT..
IS THIS GONNA BE ALRIGHT?
OOPS, I DID IT AGAIN! TEE-HEE!
MOMONA ...
I LOSE IF I GET SERIOUS ...?
NONE ...!
THIS ROLE IS SOMETHING NO OTHER HERO CAN TAKE ON.
SO YOU LOSE IF YOU GET SERIOUS!


HEY!
YOU CAME AFTER ALL, ROOKIES...
WHAT'RE YOU WAITING FOR? COME ON IN!
ROOM 25
MR. FUGASHI KONMARU
IF YOU LOSE ANY MORE OF YOUR FRIENDS ...
NEVER FORGET THAT ATTITUDE!!
HEY, THANKS! YOU'RE REALLY THOUGHTFUL!
HERE, MR. FUGASHI. THIS ISN'T MUCH, BUT...!!

34

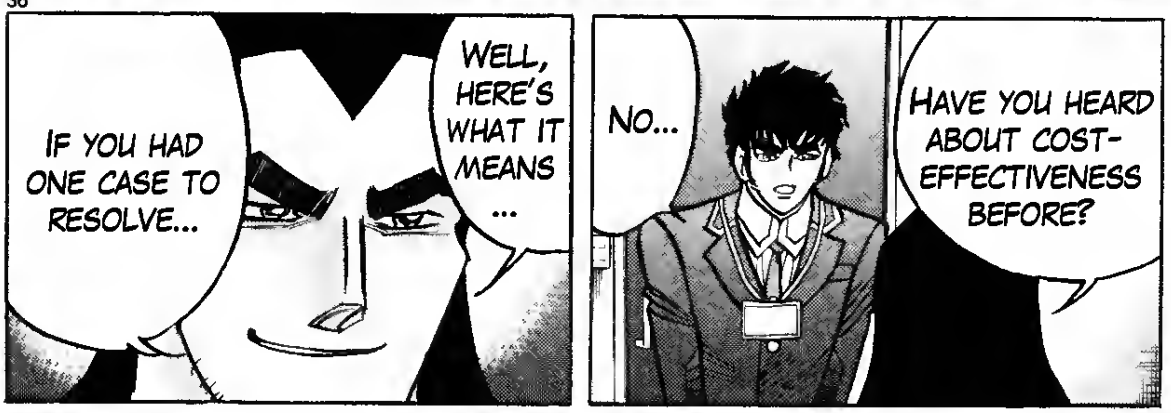
GO ON, ASK ME ANYTHING!
YEAH, WHAT IS IT?
UH, MR. FUGASHI...
YES, SIR!

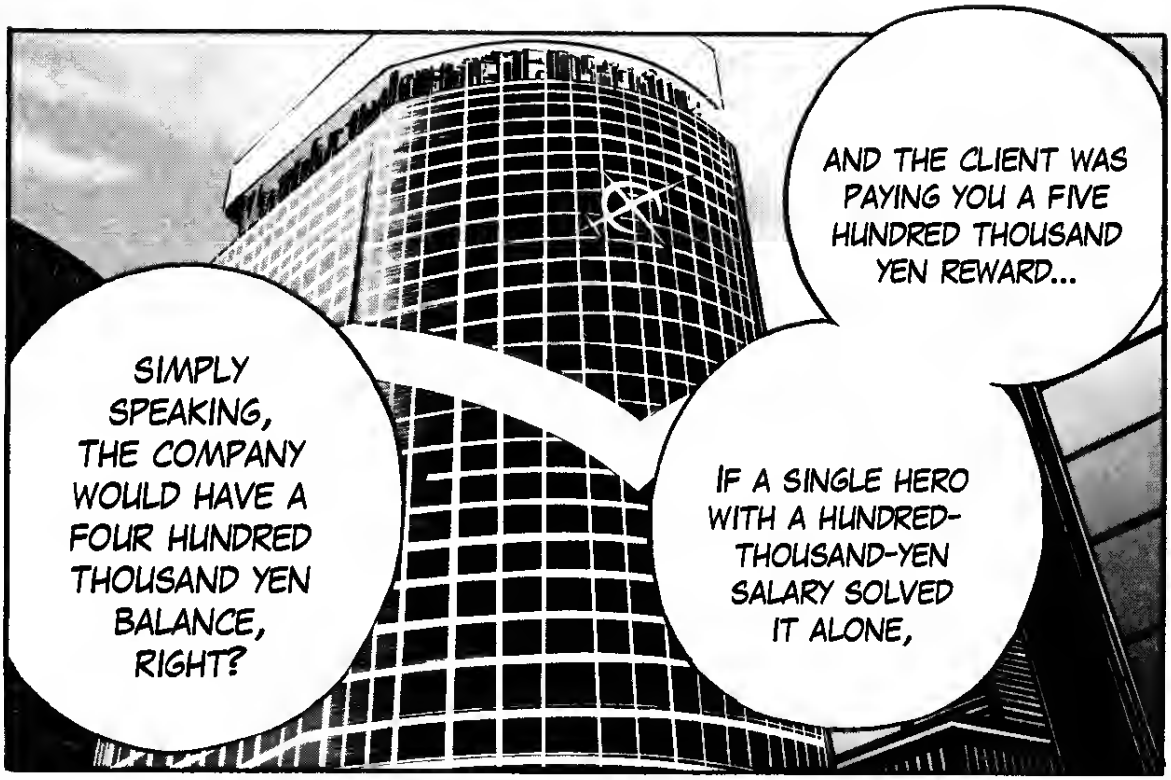
THEY DIDN'T EVEN TELL YOU ABOUT THAT?
OH...
AND THEY STILL SENT YOU INTO BATTLE?
THE RULES OF BATTLE?
WHAT ARE...
HE'S ALWAYS THROWING PEOPLE INTO THE FRAY!!
BUT THAT IS SOMETHING VALENTINE WOULD DO.
HAHA!!
SORRY ABOUT THAT.
WAHAHAHAHAHA!
THAT'S JUST LIKE HIM...
35
OR RATHER, NAVY'S JOB TO TELL YOU ABOUT THAT!
WELL... I GUESS THAT MAKES IT MY...
HAVE A SEAT, GUYS!
WAHAHAHAHA!!
.....

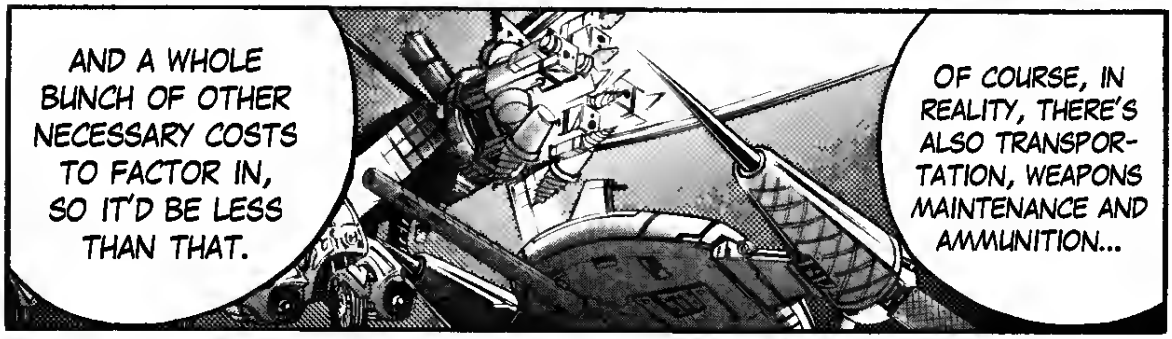

PLEASE DO!
LET ME START FROM THE TOP!
NOW,

IS DIFFERENT FROM ALL OTHER HEROES!
FIRST OF ALL, A FIVE-MAN TEAM...

36


IF YOU HAD ONE CASE TO RESOLVE...
WELL, HERE'S WHAT IT MEANS ...
NO...
HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT COST-EFFECTIVENESS BEFORE?

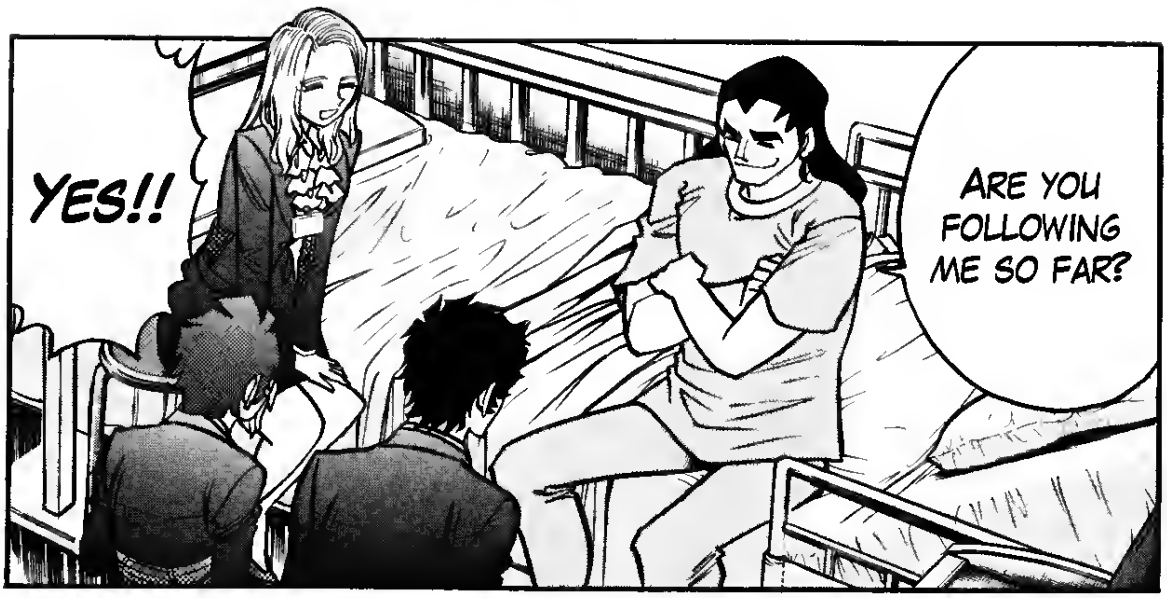

AND THE CLIENT WAS PAYING YOU A FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND YEN REWARD...
IF A SINGLE HERO WITH A HUNDRED-THOUSAND-YEN SALARY SOLVED IT ALONE,
SIMPLY SPEAKING, THE COMPANY WOULD HAVE A FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND YEN BALANCE, RIGHT?


OF COURSE, IN REALITY, THERE'S ALSO TRANSPORTATION, WEAPONS MAINTENANCE AND AMMUNITION...
AND A WHOLE BUNCH OF OTHER NECESSARY COSTS TO FACTOR IN, SO IT'D BE LESS THAN THAT.

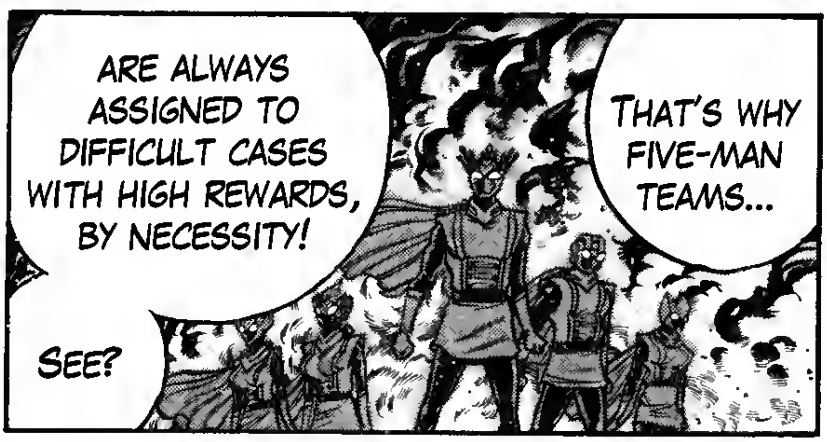
NOW,

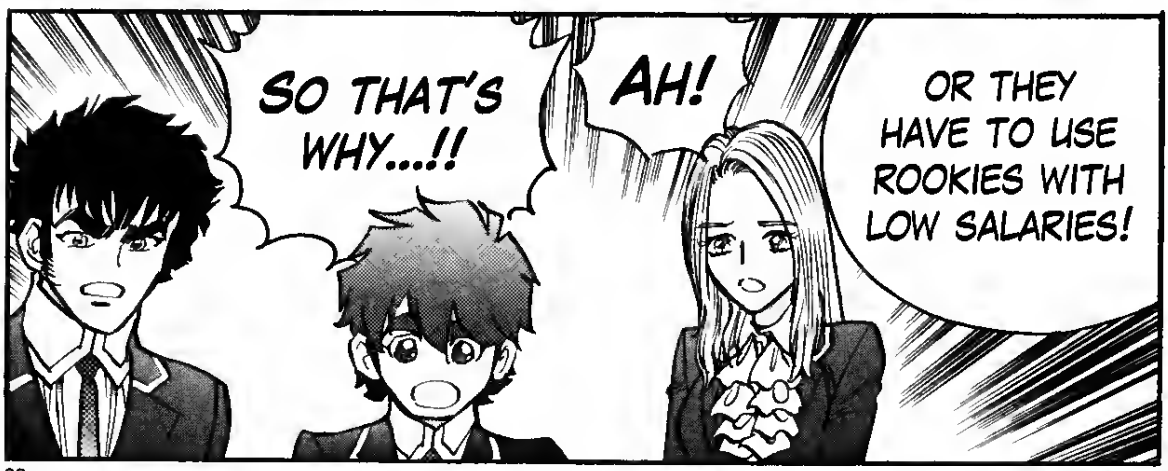
37

IF A FIVE-MAN TEAM TOOK ON THAT JOB,
THAT WOULD BE A FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND YEN FEE. THE COMPANY WOULDN'T GET ANY INCOME, AND THEY'D GO IN THE RED FROM THEIR EXPENSES!


YES!!
ARE YOU FOLLOWING ME SO FAR?

EITHER THAT...

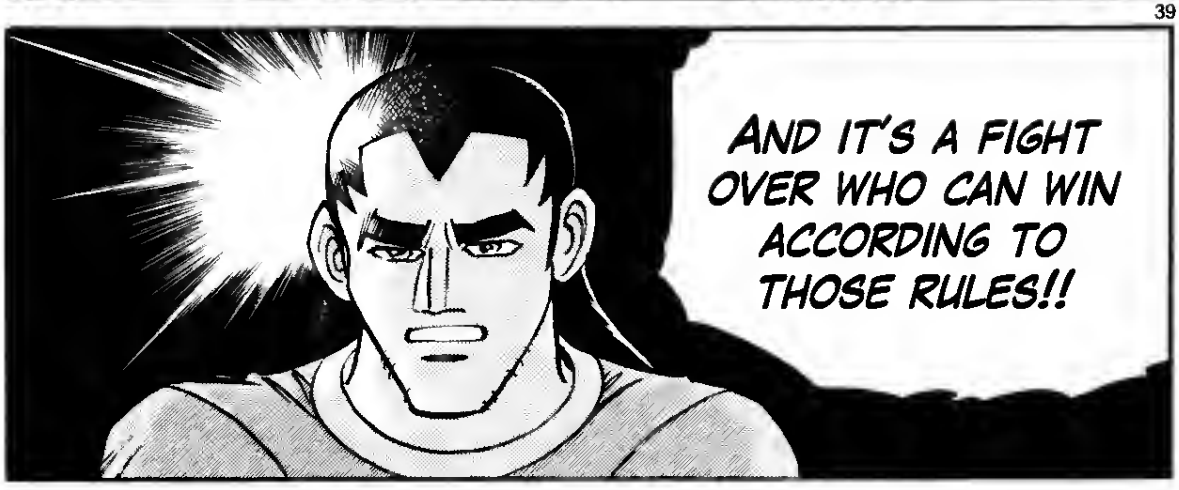

ARE ALWAYS ASSIGNED TO DIFFICULT CASES WITH HIGH REWARDS, BY NECESSITY!
SEE?
THAT'S WHY FIVE-MAN TEAMS...


SO THAT'S WHY...!!
AH!
OR THEY HAVE TO USE ROOKIES WITH LOW SALARIES!

ALL THE BATTLES FIVE-MAN-TEAMS FIGHT...
END UP BEING AGAINST MASSIVE GROUPS OF ENEMIES...
IT'S A BIGGER CASE... WITH MORE MONEY CHANGING HANDS!

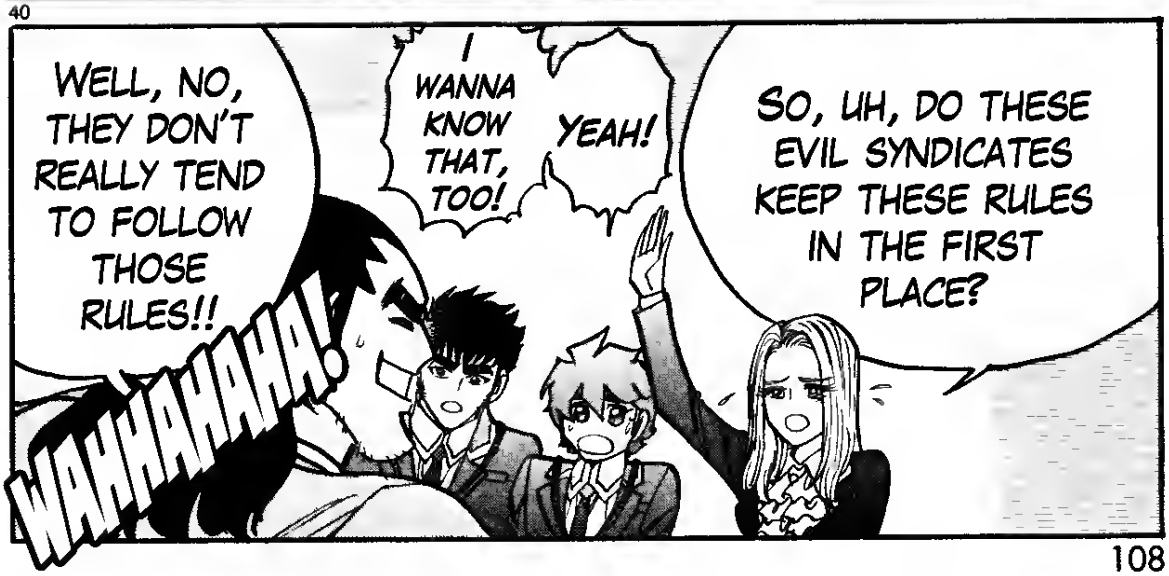
BOTH SIDES, US AND THEM, HAVE AGREED-UPON TERMS AND RULES...
THIS IS NOT A FIGHT TO CATCH ALL THE VILLAINS AND SEND THEM TO JAIL...

39


AND IT'S A FIGHT OVER WHO CAN WIN ACCORDING TO THOSE RULES!!

BUT IF YOU LOSE, YOU'LL CAUSE MASSIVE LOSSES FOR OUR COMPANY!
IF YOU WIN, THAT'LL CAUSE THEM TO GO UNDER...
.....
!!!

40


WELL, NO, THEY DON'T REALLY TEND TO FOLLOW THOSE RULES!!
I WANNA KNOW THAT, TOO!
YEAH!
SO, UH, DO THESE EVIL SYNDICATES KEEP THESE RULES IN THE FIRST PLACE?
WAHHAHAHA!

ヒーローカンパニー
HERO COMPANY

Chapter 9

presented by Hokuto no Gun

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